

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-10 (canceled).

11. (new) An information searching method comprising the steps of:

inputting a search inquiry character train into a first block;

forming a summary word list including a plurality of words to be searched based on both the search inquiry character train inputted through the inputting step and data having been stored in advance in a database provided within a second block;

further inputting a restricting condition for narrowing down search targets for the plurality of words to be searched, the restricting condition being selected from a group including an existence of an indispensable word, and an existence of a taboo word;

judging whether or not each of the plurality of words satisfies the restricting condition;

calculating similarity for each of words of the plurality of words in case that a word of the plurality words satisfies the restricting condition with a document having been stored in the database, while further judging whether or not another words of the plurality of words satisfies the restricting condition in case that a word of the plurality of words breaches the restricting condition;

searching the database for the words of the plurality of words satisfying the restricting condition with similarity which has been calculated; and

outputting search results of the searching step.

12. (new) An information searching method comprising the steps of:

inputting a search inquiry character train into a first block;

forming a summary word list including a plurality of words to be searched based on both the search inquiry character train inputted through the inputting step and data having been stored in advance in a database provided within a second block;

further inputting a restricting condition for narrowing down search targets for the plurality of words to be searched; the restricting condition being selected from a group including an existence of an indispensable word, and an existence of a taboo word;

calculating similarity for words of the plurality of words with a document having been stored in the database;

searching the database for the words of the plurality of words with similarity calculated holding a number of documents selected by the searching step into a holding block provided within the second block;

comparing the number of documents with a predetermined required number of documents; and

judging, based on both a relationship between the number of documents and the predetermined required number of documents, and the word for which the similarity has been calculated, whether or not the restricting condition having been inputted is satisfied after adding the documents for which the similarity has been calculated to the holding block in case that the number of documents in the holding means is less than the predetermined required number, or judging whether or not the restricting

condition is satisfied after deleting the documents for which the similarity has been calculated from the holding block in case that the number of documents in the holding means is larger than the predetermined required number.

13. (new) An information searching method comprising the steps of:
inputting a search inquiry character train into a first block;
forming a summary word list including a plurality of words to be searched based on both the search inquiry character train inputted through the inputting step and data having been stored in advance in a database provided within a second block;
calculating similarity for words of the plurality of words with a document having been stored in the database;
searching the database for the words of the plurality of words with similarity calculated holding a number of documents selected by the searching step into a holding block provided within the second block;
comparing the number of documents with a predetermined required number of documents; and
judging, based on both a relationship between the number of documents and the predetermined required number of documents, and the word for which the similarity has been calculated, whether or not a restricting condition having been defined in advance is satisfied after adding the documents for which the similarity has been calculated to the holding block in case that the number of documents in the holding means is less than the predetermined required number, or judging whether or not the restricting condition is satisfied after deleting the documents for which the similarity has

been calculated from the holding block in case that the number of documents in the holding means is larger than the predetermined required number, the restricting condition being selected from a group including an existence of an indispensable word, and an existence of a taboo word.